

FIRST INTERVIEW WITH ANNA ATECA AT 300 BROADWAY, NEWARK, NJ 07104.
7/16/87--TAPE 1, SIDE 1

Q. I need your maiden name.

A. Ateca

Q. Your full name.

A. Anna Luisa Ateca

Q. And your address?

A. 555 Melbrook Avenue (Newark, NJ)

Q. Place of birth?

A. Puerto Rico

Q. Date of birth?

A. 1930

Q. Year of migration?

A. 1959

Q. Occupation?

A. Social worker

Q. And telephone?

A. At home or at work?

Q. Both.

A. Okay, at home it's 481-4551 and at work it's 484-4222, ext. 213 or 212.

Q. And your marital status?

A. Single. [widow]

Q. Okay, I need your post-graduate school.

A. New York University.

Q. And your degree?

A. Masters of Psychiatric Social Work.

Q. Date of graduation?

A. Oh, God (laugh), I was . . . I believe it was in 1964, 63, something like that. I don't remember exactly.

Q. College?

A. School of Social Work, Graduate School of Social Work.

Q. Date of graduation?

A. Oh, college was the University of Puerto Rico, and my, my BS from the University of Puerto Rico.

Q. And your high school?

A. Central High school in Puerto Rico.

Q. Date of graduation?

A. 1947

Q. Elementary school?

A. Baldorioty.

Q. Cual (Which)?

A. Baldorioty.

Q. And number of years?

A. Eight.

Q. Do you have any children?

A. Three

Q. Three?

A. Yes.

Q. And dates of birth?

A. Of my children? The oldest one was born March 11, 1950.

Q. And his name?

A. Her name is Alina Sanchez.

Q. And the second one?

A. The other one is Cynthia, Cynthia Sanchez. Of course, they are married now. They have, you know . . . Cynthia Sanchez and she was born April 19, 1951, and the third one is Miguel Angel Sanchez and he was born May the 2nd, 1954.

Q. And number of brothers and sisters?

A. Two brothers.

Q. No sisters?

A. No sisters.

Q. I need your mother's maiden name.

A. Rodriguez.

Q. What's her first name?

A. Anna Maria. She's deceased.

Q. Place of birth and date?

A. My mother was born June 6. I think she was, let's see, she died last year and she was 77 years when she died.

Q. 1910? 1909, 1909?

A. She was born ⁱⁿ 1909.

Q. Date of death was last year?

A. On June the 6th was her date of birth.

Q. And years of school completed?

A. My mother, she had a high school education and two years of secretarial school.

Q. And her occupation?

A. She was a secretary.

Q. And nationality?

A. Puerto Rican.

Q. And your father's name?

A. Luis Guillermo Ateca.

Q. And his place of birth and date?

A. He was born in Spain and he was two years older than my mother so he was born in 1907 and it was February 14.

Q. Date of death?

A. My father died in 1960. I don't remember the exact date. I think it was on New Year's Eve that he died 1960. My mother died Oct., let me see, Oct. 20th, 1986.

Q. Years of school he completed?

A. My father was an engineer so he had, let's see, highschool, plus 5 more years, 19 years.

Q. And his nationality was Spaniard, right?

A. Yes, he became an American citizen.

Q. When did you decide to leave Puerto Rico?

A. Well, at the time, I had been living here before because my children were here, but at that time, I wasn't working. I was married and I wasn't working and I went back to Puerto Rico. I think it was in 1953, okay, that was in New York I was living, okay. Then my husband died, okay, and I had three small children, one was four years old, the other was three and my boy was 18 months old. At that time, my mother who was divorced from my father had ~~been~~ married somebody that was living in Newark, okay. And at that time, I was a teacher in Puerto Rico, a highschool teacher and I faced myself with the situation that with the salary I was making there, at that time, it was about \$310 a month, I couldn't raise my children. When my husband died, there was no social security or any kind of contribution. ~~so~~ I didn't have any kind of pension. ~~So~~, I decided to come and live here in Newark because my mother was already here, ~~to~~ find a job over here, and try to go to school to better of myself and that's what I did.

Q. Okay, so when did you leave Puerto Rico?

A. I believe it was in May, 1959.

Q. And you came like twice?

A. Yeah, first I came in 1948, 1949, okay, and I, but it was in New York State and then I left. My two girls were born here in New York and I left in 1953 and then my son was born in 1954, okay.

Q. In Puerto Rico?

A. In Puerto Rico. Okay, then I came to Jersey in 1959, okay. I think it was May, it was at the end of May after the school finished there, you know. I completed the term because I was a teacher at the end of May, then I moved after my teaching (ended).

Q. And why did you come the first time?

A. When I came the first time?

Q. Why, why?

A. Okay, the first time, I was already married and my husband was a dentist and he wanted to establish himself in New York. He was out of the Navy and I came with him to live in New York.

Q. Okay, what was the reaction of your family when they knew you were leaving Puerto Rico?

A. Really, it was nothing out of this world because my family has been, I had family in New York for years and years, you know. My mother had been here for years, my youngest brother was here, so really it was like rejoining part of my family, my immediate family.

Q. Why did you decide to come to New Jersey rather than elsewhere?

A. Because my mother was living here in New Jersey in Newark.

Q. And you joined her in her apartment?

A. I came to her apartment, but about two weeks after, I found myself an apartment, and I moved with my three children.

Q. And were you already working by this?

A. At that point when I came immediately the first week that I came, I found myself a job working in the city welfare department as a caseworker.

Q. What means of transportation did you use to leave Puerto Rico?

A. Plane.

Q. And how long was it?

A. At that time, it was about five hours because they used to land in Florida and then from Florida come over here.

Q. And what do you most remember about your trip?

A. I was already used to travel, so really it was not a new, it was not a new experience.

Q. Did you have any intention or need to return to Puerto Rico?

A. Not really.

Q. No?

A. In case . . . ^{hopes to} hopes, you always have ~~the~~ return, you know, to where your roots are, but the need or the intention since I've been here, no. Eventually when I retire or something like that.

Q. What was your reaction when you arrived in New Jersey?

A. I had been in New Jersey many times before to visit my mother so I was familiar with this, not with the community, the Spanish community but with the cities of New Jersey because my stepfather was Italian-American and at that time, there were not that many Spanish-speaking (people) living in the city of Newark.

Q. And when you were in New York, did you work there?

A. No.

Q. No?

A. No.

Q. Okay, how did you first find your first job in New Jersey?

A. Okay, I look at the ads in the newspapers, either the Star Ledger or the Newark Evening News, at that time and there was an ad and they were asking for a bilingual person to work in the Social Service department at Overbrook Hospital and I called them and I spoke to somebody there and they told me that the position was already taken, but they gave me the name of Miss Mary Capwell, who was the personnel director of the welfare department in Newark at that time and they told me to give her a call because they were under the [fact] that they were looking for a bilingual person and they needed me. So I called Mary Capwell and she gave me an appointment for the next day. She interviewed me, she hired me on the spot.

Q. What were the conditions of your job?

A. Okay, I was assigned to the in-take department, that was at 67 Beech Street, at that time, ~~and at that time~~, we, we had a group of migrant workers that came, like to work in the farms in South Jersey and it was the end of the season, something like that. And they had come to Newark, okay, and they had a lot of applicants, welfare applicants, and nobody was able to understand them and they had to. At that time, they were bringing interpreters and the interpreters were charging them money for the interviews and things like that and they felt that through the interpreters, they were not getting the truth because those interpreters already knew the ropes and they were coming to pay the, you know, to give the right answers. So, at that time, what they did was they assigned me to the Spanish caseload at the intake office and so they wouldn't have to pay them. The person would come or they would give them an appointment and they would come directly to me and I will interview them and I would make the determination if they were eligible or not eligible for welfare. ~~At that time and then at that time~~ If they were eligible, I would send the application to the main office and in the main office, they would assign a social worker to go out in the field and cover that case.

Q. What was your relationship with your supervisors?

A. Very good.

Q. And with the other employees?

A. Very good.

Q. Were there Puerto Ricans working there at that time?

A. I was the only one, I was the only one.

Q. How did the other members treat you?

A. Very good, I never had any problems.

Q. When you were in Puerto Rico, did you work there?

A. Yes, I was a high school teacher.

Q. And how would you compare the job you have, you had here with that of Puerto Rico?

A. It was a new challenge for me, you know, because it was not teaching. In a way, ~~but in a way~~ it was a job that ~~I was~~, I would say, dealing with people that were helpless, didn't know what to do or where to

go, where to find an apartment. Things were happening to them that shouldn't have been happening to them. They didn't know how to express themselves, they were being taken advantage, etc. etc., and I was a ~~socio~~, social science teacher in Puerto Rico, so really I could have, ~~I~~ put in effect, I used the knowledge that I had from my social science degree to work with these people. ~~and I, and~~ I identified myself in a way with them because even if we didn't come from the same socio-economic level, we had the same cultural background and the same roots.

Q. Okay, and how long were you at that job?

A. Okay, in 1964 I finished my masters degree in social work, which I was taking at nighttime and Saturdays and things like that, summertime, using my vacation. ~~and~~ ^A at that time, I found out that St. James Hospital was looking for a director of social service, to establish a social service department, because up to 1964, there was no medicare, okay, so hospitals were not really required to have a social service department. It was optional for them to have a social service department, but when the medicare law came into effect, they had to have a social service department so most of the hospitals in the area were looking for social workers, MSW's, to establish a social service department. ~~and~~ I went and ~~I~~ I called and I was given an appointment, and I was seen by the personnel director. I was interviewed and I was hired.

Q. Where did you live in New Jersey?

A. I lived in North Newark most of the time.

Q. North Newark?

A. North Newark, yeah, on a little fish street in Jerome Avenue, that was what my first address used to be.

Q. And how were the living conditions there?

A. Good, I had a nice apartment with 3 bedrooms, you know, and living room. I had no problems.

Q. And how much was the rent?

A. At that time, the rent, I think it was about \$86, it was less than \$100 at that time.

Q. And how much were you making in your first job?

A. When I started working for the welfare department, the salary was about \$4,600, something like that, a year.

Q. A year?

A. Yes, and that was supposed to be a good salary at that time. (Laughs)

Q. And then your second job?

A. My second job, I started at \$8000.

Q. And how did you learn English?

A. In Puerto Rico.

Q. In Puerto Rico?

A. Yes, because at the time that I went to school in Puerto Rico, Puerto

Rico was not a Commonwealth at that time, okay, so school, in school, all the subjects except the study of Spanish, everything was done in English.

Q. So you didn't have a language barrier when you came here?

A. No, not at all, not at all.

Q. How does your life in New Jersey compare with the life you had in Puerto Rico?

A. It was different not because of New Jersey and Puerto Rico. It was different because I faced myself with the issue of having to raise three children by myself, you know, without a husband, they were very small. In Puerto Rico, I owned my own house. Here, I came to rent an apartment until I was able to buy a house and settle myself. I had to, how you call it, find a new set of friends because it was not like the ones I had there. My activities, my activities in the community, like I got involved with the community. When I was in Puerto Rico, I was really not involved in the community. I was involved to the extent of being a teacher with my students and the parents and things like that, you know, but further than that, I was not really involved with the community.

A. (Reference to her husband): We were here from 1948 to 1953, okay, and then he decided he wanted to go back to Puerto Rico and get a transfer, you know, establish his practice over there.

Q. And then he died in Puerto Rico?

A. He died in Puerto Rico.

Q. And you were left with 3 kids?

A. Yeah, and I did have family in Puerto Rico, like my grandparents, some kind of uncles and cousins and whatever, but how do you call it, my mother was here and there was no opportunity for me (in Puerto Rico). At that time, there was no school loans or anything like that so really I didn't have any opportunity to work on my salary, you know, raise the three children.

Q. And what was your salary?

A. \$310.

Q. Per month?

A. A month so I was faced with the prerogative of giving . . . Like my mother said, "Well, why don't you let me adopt the two girls?" and my husband's ~~niece~~ said, "Why don't you let us adopt the boy?", okay, and then that would have left me completely single and able to . . . But at that time, I said to myself, my children are not books, they are not packages, they are my children and even if it's eating mud, you know, under a tree, they are going to be with me. So then, I started planning how I'm going to do it and sure, you know, I wrote to my mother and my mother knew the predicament that I was in and we decided that it would be a better opportunity for me to come over here. There were better opportunities to go to school and things like that and work and then she was here and then she helped me although she was working, but she would help me like if I, like if I was going to school at nighttime or just aggravated, ~~and things like that but she would~~ . . . I was living

next door to her in the next building and she would babysit for my children so it was easier for me to plan my future and to go back to school than in Puerto Rico. In Puerto Rico, I would have ^{had} to hire a woman. How was I going to pay her. How was I going to pay my rent. How was I going, you know, to survive with \$310 a month.

Q. And in your first job, did you work like long hours or was it a 9 to 5 job?

A. Over at the welfare department?

Q. Yes.

A. It was 8 o'clock in the morning to 4 o'clock in the afternoon, 5 days a week. It was about 35 hours ah . . .

Q. A week?

A. A week, yes.

Q. And your second job?

A. My second job was ^{the} same, alm^{ost} the same. It was from 9:10, from 9 to 5 instead of, of 8 to 4.

Q. And which two of the jobs ^{as} were most satisfying?

A. Well, the second job, I was bettering of myself. I was already a supervisor of my department. The problems that the people I was dealing with ~~I~~ was not, I would say, determining if they were going to be on welfare or not. ~~but~~ I was handling ~~the~~ all the clinics that the hospital had and the people that came through emergency that had no Blue shield/Blue cross or whatever, and so I was interviewing all these people and I had two social workers under my supervision plus a secretary which helped with the caseloads, ~~and~~ and I organized the whole department. It was, ~~a~~ you know, a bigger challenge for me and I was seeing it was more money and so I was able to do things with my children that I was not able to do when I was working with the Welfare because when I was working with the Welfare, they were attending public schools and at that time, my children were in public schools and I was able to put them in Catholic school. I was able to get better things for them. I was able to afford ~~the~~ a vacation with them and things ~~like that~~ that I wasn't able while I was going to school and, and, working at the same time.

Q. Okay and you said when you came here you started studying in N.Y. University?

A. Yes.

Q. How were you able to pay for that and (support yourself and your kids)?

A. First of all, I had to pay for my own tuition. At that time, there were no loans or nothing. I had to . . . my family, my mother and my stepfather helped me, you know, but I had to pay for my books, my tuition, my transportation.

Q. And it took you how long to (complete your education)?

A. It took me almost three years because I was going part-time.

Q. Were you at any time unemployed since you arrived to New Jersey?

A. No, no.

Q. How did you acquire your present job?

A. Okay, this used to be a Catholic high school for boys and an insurance corporation, okay, and they bought the building and they converted the building into a nursing home, okay, and I found out through Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a church, Father Mario Mishutelli that they needed a social worker, okay. At that time, I was working for the State and I was doing a lot of traveling back and forth. I mean, I was working at a conditional correctional parole, okay, and I was covering most of our prisons, the whole prison system, the whole . . . I had the Spanish caseload, it was kind of hard so . . . And then I was not as young as I used to be when I came here so I saw, you know, this as a good opportunity to stabilize myself in a job where I didn't have to do that much traveling and things like that and I came with a letter from Father Mario who introduced me to the administrator and I was hired.

Q. What does your job entail?

A. Right here? How many days do you have? (Laugh) Well, the social service department in a setting like a nursing home, this is a nursing home, we have 420 beds, we are like the patient's advocates, the family's advocates. We are the ones who are involved with the pre-admission interview, the family's pre-admission interview. We follow up after the patients are here and we follow up patient's needs, psycho-social needs. We work with the social service department. We work with the Veteran's Admini . . . , Citizen's Administration. We work with the Veteran's Administration, with the welfare department, with the area hospitals because some of our patients after they are here, they go to area hospitals and we have to follow them up. Recertification for medicaid that we have to do every year. Patients that have no families and they are completely confused and have no money for them and we are the ones who make burial arrangements. We supervise the patient's need allowance account because that's \$25 that patients are in SSI get and \$35 that patients that are SSA get and that's money that is to be used for things that are not really medicaid like clothing, beauty parlor expenses, anything that they need, okay. We, otherwise, ~~we~~ apply the Social Security administration for us to become representatives for those patients, we . . . Any social service intervention on the floor, we respond to. I belong to the Crisis Intervention Unit of the hospital. What else do we do, Luana? (Reference to her assistant) Oh, we take care of patient's mail. Let's see, we are involved with the different community organizations, we bring patients entertainment like the Mother's Day or Christmas, we organize . . . We have a recreation department, but these, they do, what they do is they hear of different situations like Bingo and things like that, but if they have to bring a band here, you know, at Christmas, a big party, usually I reach out for somebody in the community, a group of volunteers from the community that will sponsor it and then I, I will bring them over, you know, for Mother's Day and you know . . .

Q. Are you satisfied with this job?

A. It's very stressful, a lot of stress. It doesn't, it's not a 9 to 5 job, you know. There are times when I put here 12, 15, 16 hours, there are times when I work 7 days a week, okay, according to the

facility⁵ needs. I have two social workers under my supervision and a secretary. It's a very interesting situation because I think it's the first time that I confronted myself with human deterioration and then learning how to accept it everyday and learning how to motivate these patients and, and to encourage them and their families, how to realistically accept the deterioration of the patient especially in our culture. Years ago, you will find, I, I would say 10 years ago, it was very difficult to find anybody from our culture in a nursing home because our culture would tell us that grandpa and grandma, mother and father are going to die at home. It doesn't care how sick they are, how old they are, or whatever, they are going to be home, but the social situation has changed to the point where now the woman is working out of the house, the children are in school, everybody is out. These people, people are living longer than they used to be at that time. They come to a certain age where they develop Organic syndromes, Alzheimer's disease where they are completely confused. They cannot be left home by themselves because it's completely dangerous where they open the gas range, they open the door, they get lost and the police, they find them two days after. They can put ~~on fire~~ themselves ^{on fire}, especially if they smoke, they try to, they try to do things that they were used to do and they are no longer able to do it, so they get into all, how do you say it, accidents, so that leads the whole situation that the family are forced to put that person in a nursing home. Due to our cultural background that develops a lot of guilt on the part of the family. It's very hard for them to accept, you know, that this is happening to the mother, the father, whatever, and we have to work a lot with them to resolve those guilt feelings that they have and for them to accept the situation and to accept the deterioration and to help them . . . ~~time~~. Let me put it this way, the patients of the residence . . . Some of them when they come here, we become their families because even though they have families in the community, due to the fact that they work or whatever, and although we have visiting hours from 8 in the morning to 8 at night, they cannot come everyday to see them. They come home and they come do the things they have to do. Usually, they come like on a Sunday afternoon to see them or one day during the night, so really we become their family. We are the persons that when they have any need to talk or to express themselves or anything whatsoever, you know, we are part of their family. So it's a very, I would say, you need a lot of compassion to work in a place like this, a lot of understanding. At the same time, you have to keep that professional standard that you cannot involve yourself emotionally to the point that it's going to hurt you. But we are doing things that sometimes you cannot help but get involved.

Q. Do you find yourself continuing with this job?

A. Yes.

Q. What obstacles have you encountered in the area of your job?

A. First of all, we have a lot of people that are migrating here, okay.

END OF TAPE I, SIDE I

A. And they ~~don't~~, are not American-born citizens, but you have the problem with the people that are here now from the Dominican Republic,

the people that come from South America. A lot of them are, are not legal here, okay, so therefore when there is a need to put a person into a nursing home, they cannot go and apply for SSI and medicaid because they need the papers and you have the families coming here and begging and you see the problem that they have and they see they cannot handle the situation and at the same time, your hands are tied because there is nothing you can do. There is a lot of beauracratc red tape in order to develop a case to the point that the person is eligible for nursing home placement. Nursing home is very expensive. Medicare only covers 60 days and not all nursing homes are licensed for medicare, they are not licensed for medicare because at the end of the 60 days, you don't have any place to go, okay, and ~~like we~~ speaking plainly, we are stuck with the patient, okay, And there is no other way they can pay here, and you can't send them home. ~~and~~ The hospital will not take them back because they have this chronic disease ^{which} means that ~~this~~ will require a hospital and so trying to get the SSI for those people ~~it's~~ it's really very difficult. ~~and~~ Dealing with those families, it's difficult. That's one of the things that . . . The ones that are citizens, okay, it's the situation that once they come to a nursing home, any income that they have, that income doesn't come to the nursing home directly, okay. But let's say they have \$15,000, okay, the welfare department, that's the one that does the investigation, the nursing division, person's division requires that they use those \$15,000 or \$20,000 because they become medicaid, okay. If they have any property, they require that they sell that property, okay, and they might put them on medicaid but they give them special time to sell the house and once the house is sold, the government takes that money back, okay. The only thing that comes to us is ~~if~~ if the patient's getting their Social Security, that check has to be turned over to the, to the nursing home because maybe medicaid only match the funds. If at the end of the month, the bill is \$3000, okay, we have the ~~\$500~~ \$500 from the patient's income ~~and~~ and then they send us \$2500 and that would pay the whole thing. Then you have, for example, an uncle, man and wife, okay, and the man has to be admitted, usually it's first the man and then the wife. At times, it's the wife who comes first and then you . . . They have been living on that Social Security, okay. Once they have to turn over that Social Security to the medicaid, you are leaving the other person, either party, the man or the wife with no income whatsoever and at that time, that person will have to apply for SSI herself, welfare, in order to pay the rent, whatever. So that's very difficult also and . . .

- Q. And how has it benefited or affected you ~~in~~ being Puerto Rican in the workfield?
- A. I think it has been an asset more than anything because due to the fact that I'm bilingual especially in this department. It's been an asset. I have also been able, because of my, my involvement in the community through the years, to recruit bilingual staff for other departments, like nurses aides, like the records room, like the business office, you know, because they needed, because those people have to relate ^{to} these families and when you don't have a bilingual person there, then I was the sole person that, like all the problems that the other departments had when they had to do

with the Spanish speaking families that were not able to speak English, I was the one in the middle so I was doing my work, holding off my department, plus helping these people in the other departments. So little by little different people in the community learned that I was working here and they were coming here either to apply or different leaders in the community became aware that I was working here and they knew people that were looking for jobs and they ~~were They~~ started referring those people to me. ~~and I, I~~ Right now we have a big staff of bilingual people working for the different departments.

Q. And what sort of community work do you do outside of your job?

A. Okay, outside of my job, I belong to the Lioness, Borinquen Lioness Club right now, okay. In the past, I was a member of the U.C.C.

Q. Which is?

A. United Community Corporation, that was back in the 1960's when they had the anti-public ^{poverty?} program, civil rights movement, okay. I was one of the five signatures that incorporated Focus, Newark, okay. ~~I was, I, I, I~~ I worked in the ~~in~~ proposal that was sent to Washington for Newark, for Focus, Newark. I was very much involved with Our Lady of Perpetual Help after working hours because they had ~~like~~ some services for Spanish-speaking children that ^{who} were having problems with ^{the} language. At that time, we didn't have ~~the~~ bilingual education. I belonged at the time to the Board of the Fiscal, Fiscal Board. I was in the Fiscal Board. The Lioness Club Association has been involved with, last year they gave me a (reference to a trophy) from the, from the community. . . . First Vice President of the Board of the Borinquen Lioness Club. . . . for the blind people, for people who are patients. We have, ~~we have like~~ projects in order to help those people.

Q. Let's see, describe a typical day from the time you wake up until you go to sleep.

A. Okay, I come to work, get up, get myself ready, come to work. I go through the functions of my responsibilities here. Very seldom will I go out to lunch. It all depends how many hours I have to put that day. It all depends how the work, the day goes. I never know how the day is going to go and I might have an emergency. I'm ready to go home at 5 o'clock and all of a sudden, there is an emergency. Sometimes I put 8 hours, 10 hours, 12, 15 hours. There have been days when I ~~even~~ ^{have} been 16 hours over here. During the week, if we, I have a meeting of any association in the community, I will attend at nighttime that meeting and after that I will go home. ~~cause I~~ I also belong to the Board of Inocuous Mental Health Association.

Q. How has life in New Jersey affected you?

A. It has given me the opportunity to better of myself, really. I've given an education to my three children who are married right now and the three of them have a college education, you know. I have three grandchildren.

Q. Do you ever want to return to Puerto Rico?

A. I've find I'm, I'm starting to think about retirement now, you know.

It's about, I would say, 8 years to go, ~~8 years~~, I still have about 8 years to go before I retire if I retire at 65, in 5 years if I retire at 62. But I'm starting to plan, and I believe that when I retire, I will retire to Puerto Rico. I bought a house in Puerto Rico this year, you know. Somebody is renting it from me and I'm going with ~~the~~ the purpose that when I retire . . . Of course, these things sometime changes when you have family and they need and your children and things like that. Sometimes it's a little difficult, but . . .

Q. How do you see your future?

A. I see my future staying here up until time of retirement at this present job and I like to travel which I do during my vacation and things like that and enjoy my retirement.

Q. And how do you see your son's and daughter's future? How do you see your son's and daughters' future?

A. Oh, very, very, very good.

Q. You think it has benefited them that you came?

A. Definitely, definitely.

(Reference to her job): (The nursing home asks) Different agencies in the community ~~to~~ ^{the} donate clothing for them (patients) and even cigarettes, like Phillip Morris Company. I submitted a proposal and they send cigarettes, cartons of cigarettes. ~~the~~ Every two or three months I receive ^{them} and then we ~~will~~ ^{then} dispense ~~it~~ to those on SSI and don't have any families. And maybe you will ask me, well, why do they have to smoke, okay? When we are dealing with people that are . . . Our average resident is usually in their 70's and we have patients up to 100 years old and they are so sick, most of them have 4, or 5, or 6 different things wrong with them. ~~that they are going~~. They are very sick and not going anywhere, anyway, and you take the ~~only~~ ^{the} only thing that they enjoy and they do, okay, ~~you are~~ you're killing them, so that's why . . . Of course, we have smoking areas, they cannot smoke in their rooms and things like that, only ^w smoking areas.

(Reference to discrimination in New Jersey): One of the things that I have never confronted is discrimination. I don't know if it's because of the stereotype that the people here have of what Puerto Rican is, you know, but sometimes I have them ask what and I tell them that I am and they say, Well, you don't look it. Even today, you know, you look Cuban, you look this, you look that. I say, Well, what's a Puerto Rican look like. I have, I need to have, you know, eyes in the middle of my forehead to be Puerto Rican. Maybe because of the stereotype that they have of what a Puerto Rican was, they never associated me although I never denied it and all the jobs I have had, I have had it on the account . . . It benefit me to be Puerto Rican ~~and~~ be able to speak the two languages but they had the tendency of saying, Yeah, but you're different. Well, how am I different? Well, maybe because I presented myself, I had the money or whatever to present myself in a certain way because I had the background education that I acquired in Puerto Rico and when I came here, so they didn't identify me with . . . Maybe because my stepfather was Ital~~O~~-American and I came to live to a white

American neighborhood, okay, and understand all of them, but I could never tell you, you know . . . I don't remember when ~~even~~ ^{either} my children or myself encountered discrimination.

(Reference to discrimination she encountered within the Spanish community): How? Because a lot of people that started coming here and getting certain political positions, okay, with no education background and things like that which was a little at that time, okay. Maybe they saw, saw me as a threat, maybe because I had the education that I had, you know. Maybe they would, they, a lot of people mistake what you are . . . I have a tendency of being much higher ^[?] than anything, okay, and they mistake that with being arrogant, which I don't think I have ever been, ^{But} it was very difficult for me ~~and for me~~ to gain the trust of not, the trust, because my . . . Let's say, my clients in the welfare, they used to love me and all the jobs I have had, things like that but within the political animal situation. It was like she's taboo, you know.

Q. This is within your own people?

A. My own people, my own Puerto Rican people whether you want to believe it or not, like she's "blanquita" you know what I mean.

(Reference to other professionals working in Newark): The only other professional people that were working in Newark at that time were two girls. At that time, they used to call Catholic Charities. There was a girl by the name of Maria Chessini, she was of Argentina and she was a caseworker, ~~there~~ ⁴ and there was a girl by the name of ~~Maria~~, Carmen Rogozo who was from Puerto Rico, okay, ~~then~~ ^{She} married and she became Carmen Colbot. ~~She~~ ^S She was President of the Puerto Rican Day Parade and she worked for the welfare department for many years, okay. They were the only ones, okay. They were the first ones that I met in a professional level that were bilingual ~~and were . . .~~ ~~because~~ There were a lot of "bodegas", people, you know, that had bodegas and things like that, pero no habian business that we have now of different stores like clothing stores and restaurants. We didn't have anything like that. ~~and at that time~~ ^M Maybe 3 or 4, 5 bódegas because one of the things with the Puerto Rican community is that usually when the Cubans came, they settled themselves within 6 or 7 blocks, okay. Everybody was there, when the Spaniards came, the same situation, the Dominicans, the same situation, but with the Puerto Ricans, they have always been spread out over Newark. You have ~~a~~ a little group of Puerto Ricans living ~~like~~ in South Broad Street, then you have another group living ~~on the~~ ⁱⁿ the Central Newark, okay. Then you have another little group living here in the Broadway area, in North Newark, ~~in the Broadway area~~ so they were not . . . There were like 4 or 5 families here, 4 or 5 families there. They were not around ~~in the~~ ^{is located in} the same place. Even now, even today, you know, they are all over the city of Newark.

Q. You don't live in Newark anymore, do you?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. You do?

A. Yes.

Q. It seems like you've had so many jobs and and you've helped the community. How many jobs have you had?

- A. First it was the welfare, then it was ~~with the~~ with the St. James Hospital. I worked with ~~the~~ the county, Essex County, but not with the welfare. I was in the C.E.T.A. program, okay.
- Q. And what did you do there?
- A. I was director of, was director of Human Resources. I had five departments under my supervision. ~~Like~~ I had the training department. I had ~~the~~ the job development department. I had the, then, the job seekers, you know, the ones that develop jobs for job seekers. I had the, the, how do you say, disabled, disabled people. I had another department that was life skills, teaching people life skills in order to go out and get jobs and things like that. I worked with the State, with the prison system, okay, with the prison system.
- Q. Oh, and what did you do with the prison system?
- A. Well, I was in charge, I had 700, my caseload was 700 inmates, almost 700, it might been 712. I was the person who did the psychological evaluation of the Spanish-speaking ^{prisoners} ~~patients~~ that were going to come before the parole board. I was the one who made the evaluation, ~~like~~ ~~When the prisoner, when they go, let's say they get to, they get to, they go to Trenton prison, that's maximum security, maybe~~ ^{but I} 2 or 3 years after, ~~after~~ on account of good conduct or whatever, they are eligible for minimum security, but ~~they~~, they needed an evaluation. ~~and~~ I was the one who presented the evaluation to the committee that ~~they were, they would change their status, and then~~ ~~I~~ I would follow them up ~~up~~ until the time they came before the parole board.
- Q. You worked with the welfare system and we hear so much now that Puerto Ricans come here, and Hispanic people in general, go for the welfare system. What do you think about that?
- A. When I worked with the welfare department, the city welfare department, okay, ~~the people~~ the Puerto Rican people that were coming here, it was at the time that Puerto Rico converted itself from an agricultural island to an industrial island so all those people that used to go on farms in Puerto Rico were no longer able to work on farms and they did not have the knowledge because they had never been in school or whatever to work in a factory because they were usually American factories. So at that time, a lot of plant owners from South Jersey went to Puerto Rico to recruit people to come to work in the farms so the people, ~~they, they would come like, they, say~~ in the month of May and they will be working in the summer until the month of October. At that time, it was a racket because they would make them sign a contract and they came over here and at the end of the week, they would deduct rent, they would deduct food, ~~they would even, even if they have an entertainment center where they, they will get women, let me put it this way, unavailable alcohol, or there was gambling or whatever, they would deduct all this and the people end up with maybe \$35 in their pocket, because that was the way it was.~~ So at the end of the season, they could no longer remain in that farm so they had to go to a city. They could not go to the suburbs because they were not accepted. So the big city, the big industrial city was Newark. They didn't have the tools to secure jobs in factories because the only thing they did was farmwork so there was the need of those Puerto Ricans at that time because of the circumstances in

in the country, they came to apply for welfare. But my experience was that once they were able to secure a job, they would come and say, "I don't need it anymore". But then I also worked at the time of the Cuban immigration, in the ~~the~~ early 1960's when Fidel came and they started to immigrate and I also handled the Cuban immigration. At that time, most of my cases were either for Cuban or Puerto Rican. I had, there was not as many South Americans as we have ^{now}. There were not as many people from Dominican Republic as we have now, okay, but I would not say that ~~they were, that they~~ came here to get welfare, okay, and I would not say that ~~that they~~ abused the system either because while I was there, the in-take department, we were about 11 or 12 caseworkers ^{and} I was assigned to the Spanish population, ~~and the others~~ ^{and} were assigned to the rest of the population. I was seeing people come and getting welfare there where the grandmother was a welfare recipient and the mother was a welfare recipient and the children, grandchildren were welfare recipients and they would come and demand, demand, really to the point where a lot of caseworkers were even frightened and afraid of their security. ~~and we~~ ^{we} needed even security guards and things like that. I never had, in the years that I worked there ~~had~~ the experience of having any one of these families be disrespectful to me, or even, you know, raise their voice or anything toward me. On the contrary, you know, ~~even~~ ^{when} they saw me on the street or whatever, or even after, ~~after you know, they, they,~~ they came and said "Hi" to me. ~~or whatever.~~ They would come once in a while or call once in a while to see how I was. ^{now} So, really I don't know how the situation ~~is~~ ^{is}, but I took the first, I would say 5 to 6 years and I would not say ~~that~~, that they were coming here to get welfare. ~~and I don't~~ ^{can't} say that the majority of the welfare recipients were, ~~was~~ Puerto Rican because we had black people on welfare and we had Italian-American people on welfare. We had Jewish people on welfare. We had them all, okay. ~~It was not~~ As a matter of fact, at that time, I would say ~~that it was at the time also that~~ the migration from the black people ~~was coming~~ from the South, okay, and it was a larger migration than the Spanish migration and ~~the, and the~~ purpose behind ~~were like~~ political ~~purposes~~ more than, ~~than need,~~ than a need ~~of~~ of aid.

- Q. And, ~~and~~ your personal life, have you adapted yourself to the American way or do you still retain Puerto Rican customs?
- A. Oh, I am completely Puerto Rican. I have never been able since then to change, never. As a matter of fact, my three children, they ~~go~~ ^{want} to school here, they did not go to school in P.R., my three children speak, read and write (in Spanish), okay, because I always made ~~it~~ ^{it} my business at home (in Spanish) and if they spoke English in school with the other friends outside playing or whatever, and at home, I always spoke Spanish and if they answered me in English, I make believe ~~I didn't~~. I didn't know what they were telling me to force them to, ~~how you call it,~~ to speak Spanish and I taught them how to write and read Spanish and I always cook Spanish, Puerto Rican dishes. ~~which~~ ^{which} my son one day told me, "I don't want anymore of that jungle food, I don't want anymore". I said, "You don't want to eat jungle food, you're going to go to bed without eating because the only thing we have in this house is jungle food". ~~when the,~~ ^{that was one} night. After that, he loved jungle food. (Laughs)
- Q. And you still have family in Puerto Rico?
- A. Oh, yes. I have uncles and aunts and cousins and they come here and

they visit me and I go there. I have a great time.

Q. And politics of N.J., have you ever voted for a Puerto Rican candidate?

A. Have I ever voted for a Puerto Rican candidate?

Q. Or hispanic?

A. At times, at times because I believe that I would rather have somebody there that fits even if they are not Spanish than have somebody that is only going to use our people and not accomplish anything.

END OF FIRST INTERVIEW

SECOND INTERVIEW WITH ANNA ATECA, 300 BROADWAY, NEWARK NJ 07104
8/6/87

Q. I need to know like your husband's name?

A. You know I was married July 12, 1948.

Q. And your husband's date of birth?

A. That I don't remember. I think it was in August. He was eleven years older than I was so if he would have been living, he would have been today 68 years old.

Q. His occupation was a dentist?

A. He was a dentist.

Q. Date of marriage termination?

A. Let's see, Miguel was born May 4. It was in, it was August. I'm almost sure.

Q. Okay, I need your date of graduation from the University of P.R.?

A. Let's see, I graduated highschool in 47, that was in highschool, 47 48, 49, I think I graduated in 52.

Q. I need your place of birth, city, town.

A. Rio Piedras (Puerto Rico)

Q. And the date of birth, the day, the month?

A. June 16, 1930.

Q. And your post-graduate school degree?

A. Masters - Psychiatric Social Work.

Q. And your college degree?

A. It was, it was Bachelors degree in Education and my minor was Social Services.

Q. How do you deal with other members of the Puerto Rican community?

A. Which way?

Q. I don't know, I guess the interaction.

A. Well, I do work with a lot of them. The association that I belong to like the Borinquen Lioness Club it's a, most of them are Puerto Ricans. I have friends.

(Reference to organizations): A lot of them were politically, I would say more, you know, inclined. Most of the same people were involved cause that's one of the things we found out that there was that kind of people refusing to get involved. You had to struggle to bring more people into these organizations and it was not, not up until the time that the second generation started participating that the same faces started fading. I remember our first Deputy Mayor who was Emilio Nieves that he used to be a grocery store owner. I remember also Jose Rosario, Tony Perez that is deceased now, Mary Gonzalez, Hilda Hidalgo. When I started working at the welfare department, there was only one more Puerto Rican working with the city of Newark. His name was O'Neill. He was working for the sanitation department. I'm talking about people from the early years, strictly the early years of Newark because there were people from other towns in Jersey like Hector Rodriguez, but he was from Camden. We had a small community of Cubans at that time, too. They were not Cuban refugees, they were ~~were~~ people, they were not political refugees. They were people that were here for years and have businesses and things like that that were also involved with this, the organization. Then there was the different Catholic churches like St. Patrick's. We had a priest there that knew how to help and was very much involved with the Puerto Rican community. We had a Mario Mishutelli from our Lady of Perpetual Help. St. Columbus Church was a symbolic church that was very much involved with the Puerto Rican community. Of course, all ~~these~~ these churches that were involved with the Puerto Rican community, they had one mass every Sunday for the Puerto Rican people and the mass was always in the basement of the church. It was not in the regular church with the regular altar or whatever. The first church that had really I, I would consider that the first fully Puerto Rican church that we had here in, in the city of Newark was Our Lady of Perpetual Help. (They came with) the purpose of working with the Spanish community. The other churches were just getting into the Spanish community and providing certain needs and the needs were, you know, one, one night a week in the basement of the church.

Q. Why not upstairs?

A. ~~They, they,~~ According to them, they had the masses scheduled already for the regular congregation, whatever.

Q. The masses were in Spanish?

A. No.

Q. No?

A. No, the masses at that time, ~~they~~ were not in Spanish, ^{that} they were not in English. At that time, masses were in Latin, but the sermon was usually in English. Some of these priests, they spoke a little bit of Spanish and they were able to communicate with the people, but most of them did not.

Q. But when you first came here, was it your intention to go out to the community and help or like you said, were you just called in?

A. ~~no~~ I don't think it was, ^{that} I formulated a plan that way because I really came here ~~like~~ to live with my family, ~~to be with the family,~~ to go to school, to work, and to educate my children, but in the

process of doing that, because of the positions, I ^{held} ~~mean~~, because I was in the Social Service field, ~~that's a people, a people's field, I had you know,~~ I got myself involved. There was no other way to do a good job without getting involved.

Q. And you always got a certain satisfaction from it?

A. Oh, yes, definitely, definitely.

END OF SECOND INTERVIEW

THIRD INTERVIEW WITH ANNA ATECA, 300 BROADWAY, NEWARK, NJ 07104
9/29/87

TAPE II, SIDE 1

Q. How did you first get involved with the community organizations?

A. As part of my association of my job, you know. When I was working at the welfare department back in 1960, 1959, people started pushing me for different meeting and different things.

Q. What kind of people were they?

A. At that time, they had ~~what they, they had~~ Business and Professional Association that they were forming, you know. At that time, they were trying to form La Casa Puerto Rico because they were the two first things that I know. They were talking also about the parades and things like that.

Q. And what was your role in the organization?

A. I believe that it was Business and Profession. I don't remember if I was secretary or the Vice-President. I don't remember really. They were the New Jersey statewide parade that I was the first executive secretary that they had. With the Casa Puerto Rico, I just participated in that. I wasn't involved in a position.

Q. I know you said you were one of the five signatures of Focus Newark?

A. Yes, Corporation of Focus Newark.

Q. And you were just called?

A. There was a group that we started, you know, writing the proposal, and whatever, then when it was time to incorporate it, the people that were working on the proposal were the ones to incorporate the (organization).

Q. Oh, so you didn't stay ~~an~~ active ~~part~~ in that?

A. Yes, I don't remember exactly what position I was holding, if it was as President or something like that. I do not believe we had positions. We had a group, you know, that was incorporating the (organization).

Q. And how long were you involved in each of the organizations?

A. For a long time. With the Puerto Rican's Select, I have been over now through the years and the proposal on Business Club, it dispersed so I didn't bother with that. Casa Puerto Rico dispersed, it wasn't followed up either, okay. And then I know I participated as a member, at the United Community back in the 60's when ~~there were,~~ ~~when~~ we had the civil rights movement and also I participated in the pre-school program. ~~also,~~ I had some kind of position there, I don't remember exactly what that position ~~is~~ was.

- Q. ~~I know~~ You said last time that throughout the organizations, you found that there was a lack of participation by the people.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why do you think that was?
- A. What do you mean?
- Q. Why was there, you know, (a lack of participation)?
- A. There was a need at that time when we had the civil rights movement to create community resources that would serve the Spanish-speaking population that we didn't have before. And as our community was growing, you know, the need was there and we were working to provide those needs.
- Q. Concerning the role of the church in the community, do you know how they first got involved?
- A. I believe they were the first, one of the first groups that got involved because when I came here in 1959, I know St. Patrick's Church was involved and Columbus and St. Bridgettes that I remember at that time and then after that, in 1963 or something like that, Our Lady of Perpetual Help was founded. That was founded just for the Spanish-speaking people because the other churches, they were having masses for Spanish-speaking people, but they were American churches. But the first one that was really funded for the Spanish-speaking people was Our Lady of Perpetual Help.
- Q. And did they have Spanish-speaking priests?
- A. They came from Italy, but they all spoke Spanish and then they brought the nuns and they all spoke Spanish too.
- Q. Do you remember any of those ~~that were, those other~~ people that were involved in community organizations with you?
- A. At the beginning, I remember there was a Father Hague from St. Patrick's church. There was a Sister Barthalemue from St. Briddette's. I remember Father Marciano, something like that, he was from St. Columbus or St. Briddette's. There was Father Mario Mishutelli from Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Father Vincent, Father Hugo, Father Ernest, those were the first ones that came and worked with the community and did something about . . .
- Q. And they were the Italian or were they (Puerto Rican)?
- A. None of them were, ~~how do you call it~~, Puerto Rican. They were Spanish-speaking. The only church that was for the Spaniards was Downeck. It used to be called, I believe, they changed the name, the name now is Immaculate Heart of Mary. That church was not usually Puerto Rican. Cubans did not go to that church. It was all for the Spaniard population, that was Downeck. Then little by little, people that were moving there started going to that church too. And then they founded the Portuguese, Our Lady of _____, which was in Downeck also.
- Q. And going back to your job experiences, you said that you worked with the migrant workers when you were at the welfare department?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you remember other things about them, you know, were they happy to be here?

A. Well, a lot of them . . . It was a time of, I would say, little confusion because these people have ~~really~~ ⁱⁿ come to work, ~~really~~ in a sort of by the state picking tomatoes and asparagus on the farms, okay. They had contracts, but then the contracts were from May to October, that's when the farms worked. But came October, the farmers had no jobs whatsoever and nothing to eat and they didn't have enough money to return to Puerto Rico or they didn't want to return to Puerto Rico because they have already sold what they had there. They didn't have anything to go back to. So at that time, they started coming to the industrial cities, to find jobs in factories or whatever. In the meantime, they didn't have any income so they used to come to the welfare department in order to settle themselves with an apartment, then putting the children in school and have food and things like that ~~that~~ would give them time to find a job in a factory, in industries. A lot of them were having problems finding jobs in industries because they didn't speak the language so it was a little hard for them to get jobs. ~~Let's see, also, it's just like,~~ I would say, this is something that happened to different people from different countries that come here. When you start a job in different factories, you know, factories are usually seasonal and they hire a lot of people, ~~like some factories, they say~~ for certain seasons and then there are certain seasons ~~of a rest, and things like that that~~ they lay them off. So a lot of these people also were coming to me at a time when they were being laid off so that we would help them ~~up~~ until the time they started collecting the unemployment insurance benefits.

[Then]

Q. And did you know of any ~~like I said, did you know of any~~ organization that helped ~~like~~ the Puerto Ricans learn English or (find jobs)?

A. At that time, a lot of churches were having English as a second language in the basement. I remember that Our Lady of Perpetual Help had classrooms and they had ~~like~~ college students that would come as volunteers that would come to people that were having difficulty with the language and they were helping. ~~They were also helping . . .~~ At that time, we didn't have ~~like~~ English as a second language as we have now in school, so it was hard to adapt to school. So they had, ~~they were having~~ 2:30 services ~~where~~ after school. ~~Like~~ If the father was working and the mother was working, ~~things like that,~~ instead of going directly home, they would come to the church and there they would give them ~~like~~ a glass of milk and a piece of cake or cookies, something like that. ~~and~~ Highschool students or college students would volunteer their services to come and help those children with their homework.

Q. And at your job at the prison system, how did you acquire that?

A. What?

Q. Your job at the prison system?

A. Here?

Q. No, at the prison system, how did you get involved with that?

A. I was working for the Puerto Rican Congress at that time, okay. I was also a member of the Board. I was the treasurer of the Board and I was working. It was in the Vietnam Veteran's area and they did have some money allocated to help all these Spanish-speaking

Vietnam Veterans that were coming home with mental health problems, okay. A lot of them with drug problems and I was servicing, ~~like~~ they had an office in Camden, they had an office in Trenton, they had an office in Newark and another office in Paterson, and I would go different days of the week (to the different offices). I had a schedule to go different days of the week to go to the offices and the Veterans would come to me with their problems either their mental health problems or they were having family problems or they didn't have jobs and things like that and I was handling them. So at that time, the prison system realized that some of the Spanish-speaking inmates were in prison on account of drug related crimes and that a percentage of those were Vietnam Veterans and they were asking for somebody to help them. So the Division of Correctional Parole called the Puerto Rican Congress and asked them if I could go and service them. So at that time, I started servicing them, okay. Again, ~~like~~ if they were ready to come out, I would try and get jobs for them, connect them with community resources, get ^{them} in touch with their families that they hadn't spoken with and things like that. ~~and then~~ ^{was} when the money ^{for} that the Puerto Rican ~~had~~ exhausted and there was no more money being sent from Washington for that program, the Division of Correction called me and asked me if I would like to work for them and keep on doing the same ^{type of} work I was doing. So at that time, I went to work for the State and I was working with all the Spanish-speaking inmates all over the state prison system. I used to go ~~like~~ every day to a different prison and I used to do the evaluation for all the prisoners that were going to come before the parole board and I made recommendations and I would also make the recommendations for change of the status, ~~like~~ Some of them when they came in, ~~they were like~~, they were in Trenton prisons and they were in maximum security and if in 6 months or a year, whatever, they had shown the system that they were good prisoners and had good behavior, they would change them to minimum security and that would change them from one prison to another. They would have more rights like the right to go on free pass and things like that and I was the one who was making the recommendations and I, at that time, if they were going to go out on free pass, they could not go out alone. They needed somebody from ~~the~~ ^{prisoners} community to sponsor them so I was fishing out for families and resources in the community that would volunteer to bring that ~~patient~~ out on a free pass and be responsible for them and bring them back in the end.

- Q. Was there a great deal of participation? Did people want to sponsor them?
- A. Oh, yes, yes. I worked also with females and males because I was in Clinton prison and at that time, it was only females, but now they have . . .
- Q. And at the prison system, were there Spanish guards there that talked to the prisoners?
- A. Oh, yes, we had Spanish guards and we had volunteer groups coming in and the prisoners had different associations like Latin-American Associations and they had an office and a telephone and they would sponsor different shows. They would bring orchestras from the community and things like that.

- Q. At St. James Hospital, were there many Puerto Ricans working there?
- A. In the Social Service department, I was the first one since I started the department, but when I started working there, it was a time of the Cuban influx so at that time, there were nurses but they needed to pass the Board here so they were hired as LPNs and they were going through the process of taking the Board and becoming RNs. We had a lot of, I would say 3 or 4, Spanish speaking doctors. I remember Dr. Vazquez, he was Puerto Rican, a foot doctor, but then we had a lot of Cuban doctors working in the Emergency room like Dr. Calderon. A lot of these doctors that are established now, they started at St. James in the Emergency room and they passed the Board and were able to establish themselves. Also there were Spanish-speaking people working in the Housekeeping department, at the Dietary department, and also after I established my department, besides myself, there was another social worker that was under my supervision that was Puerto Rican.
- Q. How did you get involved with C.E.T.A.?
- A. Okay, C.E.T.A., I know Larry Stokes _____ Essex County Director of _____ or something like that, because he had been my director when I was working at the Welfare Department and when they established it, she called me and she asked me if I was interested in the position there and she referred me.
- Q. And were there many Puerto Ricans eligible for this program?
- A. Oh, yes.
- Q. And many came to join (the program)?
- A. Oh, yes.
- Q. I know you said when you were in Puerto Rico, you were a Social Science teacher?
- A. Yes.
- Q. why didn't you pursue that job when you came here?
- A. Well, I was a Psychology and Sociology teacher in Puerto Rico and I got myself involved with the students problems and the families and things like that. And at that time, I found out that I would like to follow up my Social Services instead of teaching and when I came here, in order to teach, I needed also to get a certificate which I did not have because I had the one in Puerto Rico, but I didn't have the one from Jersey so I was able to get work as a caseworker with the welfare and at that time, I started going back to school to get my Masters degree in Social Service.
- Q. You said that after you retire, you would like to go to Puerto Rico. Why? You've made your roots here.
- A. I bought a house in Puerto Rico. I still have family in Puerto Rico. It's a different climate. It's my roots and I think everybody has that kind of feeling when you reach a point that someday you will return. Now ~~when~~ will be the appropriate time to return, I found out that I'll be ready when I retire. I will be able to (go to Puerto Rico).

- Q. And concerning your family, I know you said you had a brother, you had two brothers, do they live here now?
- A. They are both dead.
- Q. They are both dead? At the time that you were here, when you first came, one was already here?
- A. My youngest brother was here living with my mother. When I came here, he was attending Barringer Highschool at that time and my other brother was in Puerto Rico and I was here for two years before he came. He lived here for 20 years.
- Q. And your mother, I know she married an Italian?
- A. Yes, Ital~~o~~-American.
- Q. And do you know how she met him?
- A. It was in the II World War.
- Q. During the II World War?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And she met him in Puerto Rico?
- A. In Puerto Rico at a dance.
- Q. Was she content in living in New Jersey?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And did she play an active part in the community?
- A. Not at all.
- Q. No? She was a secretary here?
- A. She worked as a translator in Wall Street in New York for 36 years. I believe in an import/export company. She spoke five languages so any mail that would come to that company that was from Portugal, France, or from Spain or whatever, she would translate it into English and she would give it to her boss. Then her boss would dictate it to his secretary in English and then they would give it to her and ~~would~~ would translate it into the proper language.
- Q. How did she learn so many languages?
- A. Well, Spanish and English is something that is very simple. We lived in Spain, in France, and we lived in England and when we were living there, she learned the language.
- Q. I know you went to a more white dominated neighborhood when you first came, but where there any "bodegas" there?
- A. The ones that were were Italian
- Q. Oh, there were no (Puerto Rican bodegas)?
- A. They were Italian grocery stores. There were no, none of them were Spanish.

Since this interview was conducted in Anna Ateca's office, there exists many interruptions throughout the interview. Many parts are inaudible, but they have been filled in the transcript.